

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6479**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1581

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 13, 2012

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Vote Centers.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Smaltz

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill provides that majority, rather than unanimous, approval by a county election board is necessary after June 30, 2013, for a county to become a vote center county.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2013.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Summary:* The bill would make it easier for a county to become a vote center county. As a result, the bill could increase county expenditures that would be necessary to establish vote centers, including the development costs for an electronic system for poll lists. However, vote centers would likely reduce the overall number of poll workers needed, when compared to a precinct election. Therefore, some election cost savings could occur. The overall impact would depend on local action and would vary among adopting counties.

**Background on Vote Center Costs:** Tippecanoe County was one of two pilot counties designated by the Secretary of State after the passage of P.L. 164-2006 authorizing pilot vote centers. During the 2007 municipal election, Tippecanoe County established 22 vote centers replacing 52 precinct polling locations. According to Tippecanoe County Board of Elections and Registration analysis, the unit cost of the vote centers was \$3.52 per vote as compared to \$4.66 for the precinct polling locations.

Tippecanoe County paid their vote center inspectors \$170 per day during the 2007 election. The raise was to compensate for increased training time of four hours. (Tippecanoe County had budgeted to pay their inspectors \$160 in a conventional precinct election.) Tippecanoe County estimates that a precinct election would have required 260 full-time poll workers versus approximately 142 full-time (plus some additional part-time) poll workers utilized in vote centers during the 2007 municipal election.

Tippecanoe County paid \$10,750 for electronic polling hardware and software for their vote centers. The county did not have to produce paper poll books, which were estimated to cost \$1,782 to produce. It is estimated that their poll book printing savings would have broken even with the start-up cost of the electronic poll book development within roughly six elections conducted by vote centers.

The requirement to produce and mail voter postcards, which a voter was supposed to show a poll worker before voting at a vote center (to prevent duplicate voting), cost the county \$12,465 to produce. This was an additional vote center-generated cost that was not required in a conventional precinct election. However, the additional expenditures generated by postcard production for the vote centers were mostly offset by the reduced part-time labor and absentee ballot production costs experienced in the election using vote centers.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** Counties adopting vote centers under the bill.

**Information Sources:** Tippecanoe County Election and Voter Registration Office: *Vote Centers 2007-Looking Forward to 2008*; Linda Phillips, former Tippecanoe County Clerk.

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